

PROGRAMME UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

CHINA

Date: 2 July 2003

Appeal no. 1.66/2003; Appeal target: CHF 3,564,329 (USD 2,442,454 or EUR 2,422,114)

Programme Update No. 1; Period covered: January - June 2003

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 180 countries.

For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal coverage: 66.4 %.

Outstanding needs: CHF 1,198,543

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: East and South East Asia: Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)(Emergency Appeal 04/2003); East Asia Annual Appeal (01.69/2003)

Programme Summary: Progress has been satisfactory, during the first half of 2003, with the carrying out of Federation programmes supporting the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC). Several activities, however, have been delayed due to the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). In spite of China's overall continuing strong economic growth, there remain large areas of deprivation and vulnerability in many parts of the country. A growing number of participating National Societies are expressing interest in working in a coordinated manner to support RCSC health, disaster preparedness and capacity building programmes to respond to these challenges.

Operational developments

There were several events over the past six months that are likely to have a significant impact on the context of the Red Cross/Red Crescent's work in China. On the political front, the new leader of the Communist party was also confirmed by the National People's Congress as state president, and a new Prime Minister was appointed. This represents the fourth generation of leaders since the founding of the People's Republic of China who now have to face very different challenges to those of their predecessors. As China continues its economic development it will be confronted by a range of demands for social and political changes to match the rapid pace of modernisation on the economic front. Not the least of these challenges is the increasing gap between the prosperous eastern and central provinces and the western areas of the country where development support is both needed and encouraged.

China's rapid economic growth continues. According to official statistics its gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 9.9% in the first quarter of the year, confirming that China continues to possess the world's most dynamic economy. The SARS crisis will cause some disruption, but most economic commentators forecast that this will be of a temporary nature and that the pace of industrial growth will soon be resumed.

The outbreak of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) epidemic has had a colossal impact on China, as well as on other countries in Asia and the world at large. Authorities in China recognise the need for a more open and honest approach to public information. The country has made great efforts to contain the spread of the disease as both the government and the population at large realised the potential severity of the disease. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has played a prominent and well-respected role in advising the government and guiding

international efforts to address this crisis. It is, however, becoming increasingly clear that the public health system in China needs to be strengthened.

The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) has played a prominent role in addressing the SARS epidemic. It is one of only four organisations authorised by the government to receive funds for this purpose, and as of mid June it had raised over CHF seven million in cash and kind donations from domestic and international sources. The Federation has provided support not only through its international appeal but also by providing advice regarding public health information issues and fostering linkages with WHO and donor country embassies (see separate SARS operational updates for further details).

There is definitely a good opportunity for RCSC to build from its SARS response to analyse and define what its role in the public health field should be in the years to come. In a broader sense, there is also a growing number of participating National Societies that are interested in working with RCSC in health and disaster preparedness programmes. In spite of China's overall economic growth noted above, there remain great areas of deprivation and vulnerability in many parts of the country. The support of Participating National Societies (PNS) and the Federation Secretariat can help RCSC respond in an effective way to meeting these challenges.

Health and care

Goal: The RCSC will contribute to the reduction of the transmission of HIV/AIDS in China and help to improve care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS and their families.

Objective: The abilities of the RCSC both at the headquarters and in provincial branches to design, implement, manage, and fund effective and sustainable HIV intervention has improved leading to the increased capacity of the youth in key provinces to protect themselves from HIV/AIDS infection.

Progress/achievements against expected results:

The first six months of 2003 were used to lay the groundwork required for initiating the activities and achieving the expected results defined in the 2003-2004 Appeal. There have, however, been few specific achievements against these activities in the first half of this year due to delays caused by conflicting obligations on the part of RCSC, the long Spring Festival/lunar new year holiday (mid January through mid February), and SARS, which forced the cessation of all HIV/AIDS work from mid April through June.

Criteria are established and used to identify a number of priority provinces for capacity building and implementation of HIV/AIDS activities.

In March, the RCSC and the Federation presented a four-day workshop, entitled "Red Cross In Action," for RCSC branches and their colleagues in the Chinese Centre for Disease Control (Beijing, Tianjin, Heilongjiang, Shanxi, Hebei, Liaoning, and Jilin) on the Red Cross and the response to HIV/AIDS. In addition to raising awareness of Red Cross branches about their responsibility regarding HIV/AIDS, these workshops are intended to serve as the primary means of determining selection criteria and priorities for Federation/RCSC support. Three additional "Red Cross in Action" workshops are planned to be held for 24 provinces before the end of 2003.

RCSC has nearly ten years of experience with HIV/AIDS prevention, through the collaboration between Australian Red Cross and the Yunnan and Xinjiang branches of RCSC. Among the remaining 29 branches there is widely differing interest in adapting the Yunnan/Xinjiang model. Some branches accept that HIV/AIDS prevention and care is an integral part of the Red Cross mandate, while others consider the HIV response to be the responsibility of the Health Department. In order to encourage all branches to collaborate in the local response, the RCSC and the Federation held a four day workshop to introduce basic information about HIV/AIDS, how the Red Cross/Red Crescent principles support Red Cross activities, and the Yunnan/Xinjiang model of youth peer education.

The workshop included sessions on: Red Cross/Red Crescent principles and policies regarding HIV/AIDS, including Strategy 2010, Fundamental Principles, and the 2003 policy from Secretariat; the HIV/AIDS situation in China; basic knowledge on HIV/AIDS (transmission, prevention, diagnosis, disease progression); Youth Peer

Education theory and practice, facilitation and management skills, including recruiting and retaining project volunteers; Living with HIV/AIDS; and Project design and proposal-writing.

All stakeholders in six priority provinces demonstrate increased awareness and participation in HIV prevention and care activities.

Priority provinces will be selected based on criteria from the activities described above as well as relevant situation assessments. For example, provinces where other organizations (PNS, INGO, or United Nations/WHO) have complementary, but not duplicative, care and support programmes would be attractive as the RCSC/Federation response could build on existing capabilities and take advantage of nascent referral networks.

Provincial Red Cross branches are committed to implement the youth peer education (YPE) training, a model developed by the Asian Red Cross and Red Crescent AIDS Task Force and identified by the UNAIDS as a best practice for China; Governmental and non-governmental support at the local level for YPE is granted.

The Canadian Red Cross supports five provincial branches (Sichuan, Xinjiang, Gansu, Inner Mongolia, and Qinghai) to initiate youth peer education activities similar to those supported by the Australian Red Cross in Yunnan and Xinjiang. As funding is quite limited, the Canadian Red Cross requested technical support from the regional delegation with providing training of facilitators for the project. The first of two trainings was completed in 2002 (for Gansu and Qinghai branches). This second training, in January, trained branch staff and HIV/AIDS volunteers/young facilitators from Sichuan and Inner Mongolia Provinces.

The five-day training was completed for ten participants from Sichuan and eight from Inner Mongolia, covering detailed information about HIV/AIDS and related issues (drug use, sexually transmitted infections, peer pressure, stigma and discrimination) and participatory facilitation skills. The RCSC branch will manage trained facilitators/volunteers and organize a two day peer education/HIV prevention and care workshops for young people in their respective provinces.

In addition to training facilitators, the training was used as an opportunity to gather information on branch capacity and interest in HIV/AIDS activities and of the local HIV/AIDS situation. The data will be useful in determining criteria and priorities for future support from the Federation/RCSC.

The Federation, RCSC, and Canadian Red Cross are discussing future needs and means of follow up and support to this bilateral programme.

Assist the European Union project design team to collect data for project proposal: a consortium of five National Societies: France, Netherlands, Sweden, Cambodia, and China was formed to submit a project proposal to the European Union to be funded over five years. The Federation was requested to accompany the project design team to Inner Mongolia to collect data on the local situation and branch capacity/interest and to identify specific objectives and activities. As noted above, this trip gave valuable data to inform RCSC/Federation decisions about future support to provinces on HIV/AIDS.

A total of 180 young facilitators from six priority provinces are trained in 2003-2004.

Training of facilitators will commence once priority provinces are identified, as described above, in late 2003.

A total of 40 youth peer education (YPE) workshops for 20 participants each is carried out in three priority provinces in 2003. Fifty to eighty additional workshops will be held in 2004.

Youth peer education workshops will begin after the facilitators are trained.

1,800-2,400 peer educators/participants are trained and a further 9,000 to 12,000 young people educated by peer-educators in 2003 and 2004.

After attending a two day youth peer education workshop participants are expected to share HIV prevention and care information with at least five friends, family members, or colleagues.

The RCSC organization as a whole and the staff and volunteers of the Red Cross are supported to set and maintain a clear direction for HIV/AIDS interventions; develop knowledge and skills; form productive

relationships inside and outside the Red Cross as part of a broader effort to achieve objectives; and assume increasing levels of responsibility for programme design, management and evaluation.

Activities to date have been carried out jointly by RCSC and the Federation, reinforcing RCSC headquarters and branch staff appreciation of international donor expectations and the reasons behind them, as well as observing participatory training skills and the project development process.

Evaluation was improved with qualitative indicators based on following up ten per cent of the YPE participants three months after the workshops to document behaviour change, knowledge retention, and peer education by participant for friends and colleagues.

The framework for evaluating YPE will be introduced when initiating YPE in new provinces and during facilitator training.

Selected staff members from the RCSC and provincial branches have taken opportunities to learn of new models of prevention and care, to meet donors and international partners, and to highlight the successes and experiences of the Red Cross in China. Staff members will be taking part in the Harm Reduction Conference (Chiang Mai, April 2003) and the International Congress on HIV/AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP, Japan, October 2003).

The Appeal identified two participants from RCSC headquarters to attend the International Harm Reduction Conference and learn more about the issues surrounding drug use and HIV/AIDS. Because of the SARS epidemic, however, no one from the Society's headquarters was able to participate. The Regional Health Delegate/HIV Coordinator attended with funding support from the Secretariat.

Six large scale public awareness events (per year) were launched in three targeted provinces.

World Red Cross Day events were cancelled because of SARS. The Red Cross Press, however, produced a special edition of their weekly newspaper highlighting the Anti Stigma Campaign.

Other relevant activities:

Represent the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement at the Harvard School of Government-sponsored workshop on HIV/AIDS and the business sector. The Harvard Kennedy School of Business sponsored the participant.

The Regional Health Delegate/HIV Coordinator was requested by the Secretariat to attend the first of four meetings exploring possible NGO-business partnerships in HIV/AIDS prevention and care. Some businesses represented at the workshop have subsidiary offices in China, which are RCSC members. There is, thus, a possibility of collaboration between branches and multinational businesses on local HIV/AIDS prevention.

Assist the RCSC to implement SARS prevention and control activities outlined in the Emergency Appeal.

Impact:

The trainings, workshops, and site visits made in late 2002 and early 2003 have reinforced to both headquarters and the branches the importance of RCSC's HIV/AIDS response. There is increasing recognition in headquarters that limited resources must be distributed in a rational manner, and that it is preferable to support branches where there is existing capacity and a referral network rather than spreading resources thinly over the whole of China.

Constraints:

The sudden outbreak of SARS was the single biggest and unexpected, constraint on project activities. In an effort to control the outbreak, the government of China placed restrictions on travel and large meetings, which forced the cancellation of two "Red Cross in Action" workshops and the World Red Cross Day events in Beijing and most of the provinces. If restrictions are lifted over the next three months activities can be resumed during the last quarter of 2003.

Coordination:

Within the area of Health, the Federation attends United Nations Theme Groups on Health and on HIV/AIDS and is a member of China's Country Coordinating Mechanism for the Global Fund on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. In addition, the delegation actively coordinates with other international organizations on SARS prevention and control.

Disaster Management

Goal: The impact of natural disasters on vulnerable populations in China will be minimized by developing the disaster preparedness (DP) and disaster response (DR) capacity of the national society.

Objective: To develop a clearer definition of the role and identity of the RCSC in emergency situations and in disaster preparedness, and to further develop the national society's DP/DR structures and systems.

Progress/achievements against expected results:

This disaster management programme consists of two separate components which are reported on separately below. The first consists of measures to help RCSC strengthen its speed and effectiveness in disaster operations. The second relates to the implementation of pioneering water and sanitation programme intended to serve as a model for community level disaster preparedness and mitigation activities.

- A total of 350 staff members of the RCSC at the prefecture level received training in relief procedures, disaster management concepts, logistics, finance and reporting procedures as well as the Federation's standard operational requirements.
- The DP/DR information network is expanded to a selected number of prefecture and county branches; further training in using the system and simulation exercises will take place.
- The speed and efficiency of the disaster response of the RCSC and monitoring of its disaster preparedness systems and stock movements is improved.
- The strategy for disaster preparedness and disaster response of the RCSC is revised based on the findings of the review process undertaken by the DP/DR committee.
- A total of ten staff members of the RCSC, selected by the DP/DR committee, visit two sister national societies to share DP/DR knowledge.

The first step towards addressing the above issues was taken in the beginning of March 2003 when a review of the China Floods Operation 2002 was carried out by an independent consultant, assisted by two experts from the Federation secretariat in Geneva and a PNS representative. The purpose of the review was to:

- Evaluate the timeliness, efficiency and relevance of the 2002 China Flash Flood operation;
- Evaluate to what extent the RCSC/International Federation have been successful in terms of incorporating the findings and recommendations provided by the 1999 and 2000 Flood evaluations; and
- Based on these findings described above, and the recent developments related to the Strategy for Change, develop recommendations for the future scope of RCSC/International Federation co-operation in the field of Disaster Response.

Impact:

The review raised a number of issues that have already resulted in changes in both organizations. The comprehensive review document has been translated into Mandarin and has been recognized by both RCSC and the Federation as an important document that will shape the future cooperation between the two organizations. Some of the recommendations are already starting to be addressed while others will take considerably longer to implement.

There is nevertheless little doubt that this third review of flood operations in China will have a significant influence not only on future relief operations, but also on the scope of RCSC/Federation cooperation.

Constraints:

A number of the objectives and expected results set out in the annual appeal have only been partially reached mainly due to the SARS crisis affecting not only China but also different parts of Asia. The Government of China imposed internal travel restrictions and discouraged large gatherings. Accordingly the planned workshops for 350 RCSC staff members from the prefecture levels have been postponed. The workshops are scheduled to take place later this year. For the same reasons, the plan to visit two sister National Societies to share DP/DR experiences and develop a community based DP pilot project for China have had to be postponed.

The Relief Department in Chinese Red Cross has been heavily involved with the implementation of the SARS operations. This involvement with SARS has resulted in the postponement of the longer term activities outlined above.

An integrated community-based water/sanitation programme minimizing the effects of both slow and sudden onset disasters was successfully implemented in two provinces with 8,500 dry composting toilets constructed in Guangxi Province and 5,000 toilets in Hunan Province. At the end of the project, 100 per cent of beneficiary households surveyed among 56,000 beneficiaries expressed improved living conditions and increased awareness on health prevention measures.

This second component of the DM programme deals with the integrated community-based water/sanitation/health education disaster preparedness programme in Guangxi and Hunan Provinces, and considerable progress has been made during the first half of this year. The objective is to build 13,500 dry hygienic toilets in the two provinces and to develop community based health promotion activities in the villages supported through the programme. These activities are at present fully funded by ECHO, but additional components are being developed.

The Red Cross is currently trying to identify other donors to support this integrated programme. The RCSC and the Federation have developed project packages that can be tailor-made for various donors, containing ecological toilets, provision of clean water, health promotion activities and more comprehensive DP components.

Under the previous ECHO supported project in Guangxi last year, the health component was carried out by the government. The Public Health Department, the provincial level Ministry of Health and the PHCC (which are divisions of this department at the village level) are the major stakeholders in the provision of health services including health education programmes. The Red Cross witnessed that the methodology used by the PHD in the first project was not based on the active participation of the targeted recipients and was limited to lectures, written materials, TV spots and video materials.

Health and sanitation education were critical to developing the full potential of the sanitation programme in the first project. However, due to limited funding the local authorities were not in a position to support this component to the levels needed. Therefore, in this second phase, the RCSC is playing a more active role in health promotion activities. In the current phase of the project, the focus has been on familiarizing the Red Cross counterparts with a participatory methodology and with the benefits of an integrated approach to the water, sanitation and the health promotion for both the National Society and the beneficiaries.

Since the beginning of the project the following activities have been implemented:

- Extensive discussions with Guangxi and Hunan Branches and the public health authorities regarding the planning and the introduction of participatory approaches in health promotion. Traditionally, health education in China follows a top down approach and is carried out through a series of lectures, posters etc. It was therefore vital that the concept of “participatory education” be introduced in a way that all parties understood and agreed upon.

- Presentation of the objectives of the health education programme and the participatory approach to health promotion to the leaders of RCSC prefecture branches in Guangxi. Appropriate handout material was compiled, translated into Mandarin and distributed to participants.
- An introductory visit to the Hunan Provincial Red Cross was carried out in mid January to discuss the implementation of the current project and to develop further the concept of the inclusive water, sanitation and health education package as the best model for improving the health of the affected population. Discussions also included topics related to the opening of the Federation office in the provincial capital. Towards the end of February the water/sanitation delegate moved to Hunan to start the implementation of the programme in collaboration with Hunan Red Cross.
- The translation of the PHAST (participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation) initiative. Discussions and supervision on this new participatory approach is still going on to enable the Chinese facilitators to conduct training in the villages in the appropriate manner by taking into account Chinese culture and traditions. Since the current project does not include funding to produce a Chinese manual, an agreement has been made with the Public Health Department to reprint a UNICEF produced manual based on the principles of PHAST and previously used in some governmental sanitation programmes.
- Based on the work completed by the previous delegate, separate proposals related to the water component have been developed in order to raise funds from other sources and by emphasizing the fact that water, sanitation and health education are components of one “package”, the only one ensuring the overall improvement of a public health.
- A five day workshop was held in February for 10 project prefecture level managers and 24 health education facilitators at county level in Guangxi. The workshop covered lectures and interactive training on project management, supervision, financial reporting, project proposal writing, staff management and “participatory health promotion” for future health facilitators.
- Follow-up and supervision from the Guangxi provincial office in Nanning to project managers and health education facilitators has been designed and organized and extensive communications and guidance with project managers and health education facilitators through fax and telephone have taken place. The issue has mainly been the planning and preparation of the selection of Red Cross village volunteers, the future “job” of the volunteers and what training needs they might have. All the prefectures and counties will be visited from the provincial office in Nanning before the village training take place in order to ensure the correct understanding of the participatory approach, communication skills of the facilitators, and project planning and budgeting processes. So far four out of 12 prefectures and counties have been visited and eight out of 12 villages have installed two toilets in each of the targeted villages.
- A workshop was held in April for Hunan Red Cross staff from both provincial and prefecture level on eco-san toilet construction, project management, tender procedures, procurement processes, financial reporting, and an introduction to a participatory approach to health educators and presentation of Guangxi’s programme design. There were 12 participants from Hunan and 17 from the Guangxi Red Cross.
- A meetings has been held with the Vice Governor Hunan Province, and an interview held with local TV for the promotion of the eco-san toilet programme.

Impact:

Whilst it is too early to assess the impact of the current programme, the 3,900 ecological toilets constructed under the previous project in three prefectures in Guangxi led to a significant reduction in the contamination of existing water supplies resulting from the use of traditional latrines thus improving the lives and the health of thousands of men, women and children. The project implementation also contributed to strengthening the capacity of the local Red Cross at all levels (from the provincial branches through the Red Cross structures at the prefecture level to the establishment of branches in the targeted villages).

The government has found water quality has improved considerably in those villages where dry hygienic toilets have been built. This also supports the credibility and success of the RCSC health promotion, which is an integral part of the current project. The use of the ecological toilet not only improves the health and well being of the inhabitants of a village but also contributes to ecological sustainability and to improved economic benefits for those villages targeted.

Constraints:

A number of factors have resulted in a delay in the implementation of the programme, and a request has been made to ECHO for a three and a half month extension of the programme through 31 January 2004. The programme was originally designed around the Chinese agriculture calendar for the rural population. However, there was a delay in signing the ECHO contract, which meant that the building of the toilets could not start during the winter period (December – March) when little work is carried out on the land. Furthermore, from March/April the rural population is involved with the planting and harvesting of crops, and from June to August is a period of heavy rains, which in the past have caused much flood devastation in the villages. This will also slow the toilet construction programme down.

SARS is also having an effect on the implementation of this programme as Red Cross staff in both Hunan and Guangxi have been involved with the SARS control programme. The government has furthermore limited travel from cities to rural areas to all but essential movements, and this will remain in force until SARS is no longer considered a danger to the population of China

Co-ordination:

59,000 dry hygienic toilets have already been constructed in Guangxi under similar government programmes. The construction was supported by UNICEF and SIDA. The programme is still ongoing but is now fully controlled and supported through governmental sources. The RCSC and Federation are coordinating all interventions with the local authorities in the two provinces. The present design of the toilets was adjusted based on lessons learned during the implementation of the government programmes, just as the health promotion interventions are coordinated with the Provincial and Prefecture Departments of the Ministry of Health.

Organizational Development

Goal: The RCSC will build its capacity to make a positive difference to the lives of vulnerable people through more relevant programmes and services.

Objective: The staff members and volunteers of the RCSC have improved skills and knowledge contributing to a better functioning of the National Society.

Progress/achievements against expected results:

- A total of 120 Red Cross Society of China Headquarters' and provincial leaders have improved knowledge and understanding of Red Cross/Red Crescent principles, values and policies and improved management, leadership and public relations skills.
- Resource development knowledge and skills of 120 staff members of the RCSC at headquarters and in 31 provincial branches have increased.
- One resource development pilot project is designed and implemented by the RCSC annually.
- Financial management capacity in 24 branches is further strengthened.
- The new finance management system is expanded to an additional seven branches.
- The internal finance management of the RCSC is technically upgraded to link provincial branches and the RCSC headquarters into an internal unified system.
- A total of 140 staff members of the RCSC have a good command of the English language after completing the training by the end of 2004.
- The public image and relationships of the RCSC with donors in China and in the international arena are improved.

Work to support RCSC's organisational development has so far concentrated mainly on following up on the key issues identified as a result of the 2002 national leadership training course. A workshop on project planning and reporting was organised in March for the RCSC headquarters and selected provincial branch personnel. This was facilitated by an experienced Chinese-speaking staff member made available by the Canadian Red Cross. The Federation's reporting delegate also ran one session. This allowed participants to gain a better understanding of modern approaches to project planning and monitoring, and also of donor expectations and requirements.

As a follow up to the finance development project carried out in the previous two years, a review mission was carried out with five RCSC provincial branches that were involved in the flood operation. This was undertaken by the head of the RCSC finance department and the Federation's finance delegate with the purpose of investigating how far the systems established under the finance development project were working in practice. It was found that in general the systems were working well and that the branches were well able to prepare finance reports in the correct way and had the technical competence and capacity to fulfil financial reporting standards that would be required by donors. The review also highlighted, however, that there continued to be a number of gaps in communications between RCSC headquarters and the branches and some misunderstandings as to the purpose and importance of ensuring good financial reporting. These issues relate closely to the findings of the review of the flood operation (see Disaster Management section above) and will be addressed as part of the follow up to this report.

In terms of helping RCSC build its image among the international community, good relations have been developed by the Federation's information delegate with the international and national media community in Beijing. As the Red Cross is frequently the only international organisation to have access to disaster areas in China, the media often use RCSC and the Federation as a reliable source of information. In a similar light and to build a better understanding of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement in general and the RCSC in particular, the regional delegation organised a promotional meeting in February with 20 major diplomatic missions, international donors such as the World Bank, as well as the main UN agencies. The presentations focused on passing messages about the Red Cross role in preparing for and responding to disasters and also its work in HIV/AIDS with a strong accent on youth peer education.

Impact:

The leadership training course organised during the second half of 2002 was the first time that representatives from almost all of the RCSC provincial branches came together for an event of this nature. As the RCSC continues to evolve and gain greater independence from the government it is critically important that its members and leaders gain a better understanding of Red Cross principles and ways of operating and have the opportunity to discuss what this means for them in the context of a changing China. The efforts taken so far this year to follow up on this first event are intended to reinforce this process but it will take time before the real impact of this process can be reliably assessed.

These initiatives in regard to promoting the RCSC's public image and the prominent role it played in combating the SARS epidemic, however, have clearly helped RCSC understand the importance and value of building its profile and relations with a range of external partners. A second leadership training seminar is scheduled for September in order to reach a greater number of RCSC leaders from around the country, and to build on lessons learned last year. It will also be followed by a number of events being planned for later in 2003 and 2004 designed to introduce this process more widely within each province by organising additional seminars on a regional basis for selected provinces.

Constraints:

The main constraint to moving forward with organisational development initiatives has been the SARS outbreak, which caused an effective cessation of internal movements within China for the entire second quarter of the year. It should also be borne in mind that as this process goes forward issues are emerging around internal communications and the respective roles and responsibilities between RCSC headquarters and the provincial branches. These are matters for important reflection and will take time to be worked through. However, they reflect the fact that RCSC

is moving ahead and taking up issues that are an inevitable reality for an organisation of its size in the changing environment of China today.

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

APPEAL No. 01.66/2003

PLEDGES RECEIVED

02.07.2003

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				3'564'329		66.4%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				154'555		
BRITISH - RC		30'000	GBP	67'275	15.02.2003	HIV PROGRAMME
ECHO (03001)		1'280'000	EUR	1'878'080	30.01.2003	SANITATION
SWEDISH - GOVT		500'000	SEK	80'250	31.03.03	HIV/AIDS
CAPACITY BUILDING FUND ALLOCATION				85'750	07.04.2003	PCN002
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				2'265'910	CHF	63.6%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
AUSTRALIA	DELEGATE(S)			48'295		
DENMARK	DELEGATE(S)			51'581		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				99'876	CHF	2.8%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	

